GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1079
ANSWERED ON:13.07.2009
EFFECTIVENESS OF MID-DAY MEAL SCHEME
Bali Ram Dr. ;Munda Shri Arjun ;Nagorao Shri Dudhgaonkar Ganeshrao;Singh Shri Pashupati Nath;Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of students died or fell sick after consuming mid-day meal in schools in the country including Maharashtra and Jharkhand during the last three years;

(b) whether quality testing is being regularly done for mid-day meal scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the action taken against those found responsible for such incidents;

(e) whether the Government proposes to use bio-metric (Finger Print System) to mark attendance of students and teachers under mid-day meal scheme;

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(g) the response of the scheme regarding its usefulness received from the public and the review made by the Government?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT(SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a): During the last three years 2006-07, 2007-08 & 2008-09, no confirmed case of death of any child after consuming mid-day meal has been reported by any State/UT. Certain cases of children falling ill after consuming mid-day meal have come to the notice of the Government. The number of children falling ill during the last three years i.e. 2006-07, 2007-08 & 2008-09 is reported to be 3273 in the whole country which includes 121 children in Maharashtra and 207children in Jharkhand.

(b) to (d): Though the overall responsibility to ensure all logistic and administrative arrangements for regular serving of wholesome/cooked mid day meal in every eligible school, EGS/AIE centres lies with the State (Jovernment/UT Administration, the Central Government has been continuously urging the State Governments to

- ensure that food is cooked in a hygienic environment
- food items are stored in dry and safe places
- adequate drinking water is made available
- cooks are properly trained in adopting hygienic habits.

Besides, States have also been urged to involve the parents and community members to supervise the cooking and serving of mid-day meal. It is provided in the guidelines that the food prepared is tasted by 2-3 adults including atleast one teacher before it is served to children. As and when, any complaint is brought to the notice of the Government, the concerned State Government/UT Administration is asked to conduct suitable enquiry and to take appropriate action against the responsible person(s) and initiate corrective measures to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future.

(e): No, Sir.

(f): In view of (e) above, the question does not arise.

(g): Various evaluation reports indicate that the Scheme has positively impacted attendance, learning achievements and helped in fostering social and gender equity.